

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of filtering a red-eye phenomenon from an acquired digital image comprising a multiplicity of pixels indicative of color, the pixels forming various shapes within the image, the method comprising:

(a) analyzing meta-data information including image acquisition device-specific information including aperture, f-stop, color transformation, CCD size or depth of field, or combinations thereof; and

(b) determining, based at least in part on said meta-data analysis, whether one or more regions within said digital image are suspected as including red eye artifact.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing pixel information within one or more regions suspected as including red eye artifact based on said meta-data analysis, and determining whether any of said one or more suspected regions continue to be suspected as including red eye artifact based on said pixel analysis, said pixel analysis being performed after said meta-data analysis.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing pixel information within said digital image, and determining whether said one or more regions are suspected as including red eye artifact based on said pixel analysis, and wherein said pixel analysis is being performed after ~~before~~ said meta-data analysis.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing pixel information within said digital image, and determining whether one or more same or different regions are suspected as including red eye artifact based on said pixel analysis, said pixel analysis being performed independent of said meta-data analysis.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the meta-data further comprises ~~comprising~~ anthropometrical data.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said filtering is being ~~being~~ executed at least partially within a portable image acquisition device, having no photographic film.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said filtering is being ~~being~~ executed at least in part as a post-processing operation on an external computation device.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein some or all of said meta-data analysis is being ~~being~~ performed on said image acquisition device.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising marking certain regions determined to be suspected as including red eye artifact based on said analyzing, wherein said marking of certain regions facilitates analysis for correction at during said post-processing operation step on said external computation device, ~~wherein said marking being performed on said image acquisition device.~~

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein some of said meta-data analysis or said suspected region determining or a combination thereof is being ~~being~~ performed on said image acquisition device, and some of said meta-data analysis or said suspected region determining or a combination thereof is being ~~being~~ performed during at said post-processing operation step on said external computation device.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a lens is being ~~being~~ used to capture the image, and wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ focal length of the lens at the time of acquisition.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said meta-data information further comprises ~~comprising~~ focusing distance of the lens at time of acquisition.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ effective sensor size.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said actual red eye artifact is being determined based on calculated expected size of said red eye artifact based on said meta-data information including said acquisition device-specific information.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said calculated expected size of said red eye artifact is being defined as a range with a density probability function, and wherein the range is being calculated based on depth of field.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said calculated expected size of said red eye artifact is being defined as a range with a density probability function, and wherein the range is being estimated.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said calculated expected size of said red eye artifact is being defined as a range with a density probability function, and wherein said meta-data comprises ~~comprising~~ anthropometrical data, and wherein said range is being determined by a statistical distribution of said anthropometrical data.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining operation includes ~~including~~ a probability determination process based upon a plurality of criteria.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- (i) adjusting a pixel color within any of said regions wherein red eye artifact is determined; and
- (ii) outputting image data to a printer.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the pixel color is being adjusted within the printer.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ information describing conditions under which the image was acquired.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ an indication of whether a flash was used when the image was acquired.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ aperture at the time of the acquisition.

24. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising analyzing pixel information within one or more regions suspected as including red eye artifact based on said meta-data analysis, and determining whether any of said one or more suspected regions continue to be suspected as including red eye artifact based on said pixel analysis, said pixel analysis being performed after said meta-data analysis.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the meta-data further comprises ~~comprising~~ anthropometrical data.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a lens is being used to capture the image, and wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ focal length of the lens at the time of acquisition.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said meta-data information further comprises ~~comprising~~ focusing distance of the lens at time of acquisition.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ effective sensor size.

29. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
(i) adjusting a pixel color within any of said regions wherein red eye artifact is determined; and
(ii) outputting image data to a printer.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the image is being ~~is~~ adjusted within the printer.

31. (currently amended) A method of filtering a red-eye phenomenon from an acquired digital image comprising a multiplicity of pixels indicative of color, the pixels forming various shapes within the image, the method comprising:

(a) analyzing meta-data information including image acquisition device-specific information including a spectral response curve of a sensor of an acquisition device with which the image was acquired; and

(b) determining, based at least in part on said meta-data analysis, whether one or more regions within said digital image are suspected as including red eye artifact.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said meta-data information comprises ~~comprising~~ a color transformation from raw sensor pixel values to saved image pixel values.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said determining operation includes including a probability determination process based upon a plurality of criteria.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said meta-data information comprises comprising acquisition device-specific information.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said meta-data information comprises comprising one or more conditions under which the image was acquired.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~35~~ 31, wherein said meta-data comprises comprising a color transformation from raw sensor pixel values to saved image pixel values.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein color values of said pixels indicative of red eye color are being calculated based on a spectral response of said red eye phenomenon.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the spectral response of said red eye phenomenon is being according to illumination by a spectral distribution of a camera flash unit.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the spectral distribution of said camera flash unit is being as recorded by said sensor of said acquisition device with which said image was acquired.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein said determining operation includes including comparing pixels indicative of red eye color and a multiplicity of pixels forming various shapes.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 40, wherein said pixels indicative of red eye color are being calculated based on an inverse transformation of said color transformation from raw sensor pixel values to saved image pixel values.

42-73 (cancelled).

74. (original) A method of filtering a red-eye phenomenon from an acquired digital image comprising a multiplicity of pixels indicative of color, the pixels forming various shapes within the image, the method comprising:

(a) analyzing meta-data information including information describing conditions under which the image was acquired; and

(b) determining, based at least in part on said meta-data analysis, whether one or more regions within said digital image are suspected as including red eye artifact.

75. (original) The method of claim 74, further comprising analyzing pixel information within one or more regions suspected as including red eye artifact based on said meta-data analysis, and determining whether any of said one or more suspected regions continue to be suspected as including red eye artifact based on said pixel analysis, said pixel analysis being performed after said meta-data analysis.

76. (currently amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising analyzing pixel information within said digital image, and determining whether said one or more regions are suspected as including red eye artifact based on said pixel analysis, and wherein said pixel analysis is being performed after ~~before~~ said meta-data analysis.

77. (original) The method of claim 74, further comprising obtaining anthropometrical information of human faces and said determining, based at least in part on said meta-data

analysis, whether said regions are actual red eye artifact, being based further on said anthropometrical information.

78. (currently amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said filtering method ~~is being~~ executed within a portable image acquisition device, having no photographic film.

79. (currently amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said filtering ~~filtered~~ method ~~is being~~ executed as a post-processing step on an external computation device.

80. (currently amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said meta-data information describes ~~describing the~~ conditions under which the image was acquired and comprises ~~comprising~~ an indication of whether a flash was used when the image was acquired.

81. (currently amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said determining whether said regions are actual red eye artifact ~~is being~~ performed as a probability determination process based upon a plurality of criteria.

82. (original) The method of claim 74, further comprising:

- (i) adjusting a pixel color within any of said regions wherein red eye artifact is determined; and
- (ii) outputting image data to a printer.

83. (currently amended) The method of claim 82, wherein the pixel color ~~is being~~ adjusted within the printer.

84-108 (cancelled).